

Department of Justice

§ 42.504

Federal financial assistance after the effective date of this subpart is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of handicap.

(c) The exclusion of nonhandicapped persons or specified classes of handicapped persons from aid, benefits, or services limited by Federal statute or executive order to handicapped persons or a different class of handicapped persons is not prohibited by this subpart.

(d) Recipients shall administer programs or activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified handicapped persons.

(e) Recipients shall insure that communications with their applicants, employees and beneficiaries are effectively conveyed to those having impaired vision and hearing.

(f) A recipient that employs fifteen or more persons shall provide appropriate auxiliary aids to qualified handicapped persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills where a refusal to make such provision would discriminatorily impair or exclude the participation of such persons in a program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Such auxiliary aids may include brailled and taped material, qualified interpreters, readers, and telephonic devices. Attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature are not required under this section. Departmental officials may require recipients employing fewer than fifteen persons to provide auxiliary aids when this would not significantly impair the ability of the recipient to provide its benefits or services.

(g) The enumeration of specific forms of prohibited discrimination in this subpart is not exhaustive but only illustrative.

§ 42.504 Assurances required.

(a) *Assurances.* Every application for Federal financial assistance covered by this subpart shall contain an assurance that the program or activity will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of section 504 and this subpart. Each agency within the Department that provides Federal financial assistance shall specify the form of the foregoing assurance and shall require

applicants for Department financial assistance to obtain like assurances from subgrantees, contractors and subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and others connected with the program or activity. Each Department agency shall specify the extent to which an applicant will be required to confirm that the assurances provided by secondary recipients are being honored. Each assurance shall include provisions giving notice that the United States has a right to seek judicial enforcement of section 504 and the assurance.

(b) *Assurances from government agencies.* Assurances from agencies of State and local governments shall extend to any other agency of the same governmental unit if the policies of the other agency will affect the program or activity for which Federal financial assistance is requested.

(c) *Assurances from institutions.* The assurances required with respect to any institution or facility shall be applicable to the entire institution or facility.

(d) *Duration of obligation.* Where the Federal financial assistance is to provide or is in the form of real or personal property, the assurance will obligate the recipient and any transferee for the period during which the property is being used for the purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provisions of similar benefits, or for as long as the recipient retains ownership or possession of the property, whichever is longer. In all other cases the assurance will obligate the recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended.

(e) *Covenants.* With respect to any transfer of real property, the transfer document shall contain a covenant running with the land assuring non-discrimination on the condition described in paragraph (d) of this section. Where the property is obtained from the Federal Government, the covenant may also include a condition coupled with a right to be reserved by the Department to revert title to the property in the event of a breach of the covenant.

(f) *Remedies.* The failure to secure either an assurance or a sufficient assurance from a recipient shall not impair the right of the Department to enforce the requirements of section 504 and this subpart.

§ 42.505 Administrative requirements for recipients.

(a) *Remedial action.* If the Department finds that a recipient has discriminated against persons on the basis of handicap in violation of section 504 or this subpart, the recipient shall take the remedial action the Department considers necessary to overcome the effects of the discrimination. This may include remedial action with respect to handicapped persons who are no longer participants in the recipient's program or activity but who were participants in the program when such discrimination occurred, and with respect to handicapped persons who would have been participants in the program had the discrimination not occurred.

(b) *Voluntary action.* A recipient may take steps, in addition to the requirements of this subpart, to increase the participation of qualified handicapped persons in the recipient's program or activity.

(c) *Self-evaluation.* (1) A recipient shall, within one year of the effective date of this subpart, evaluate and modify its policies and practices that do not meet the requirements of this subpart. During this process the recipient shall seek the advice and assistance of interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons. During this period and thereafter the recipient shall take any necessary remedial steps to eliminate the effects of discrimination that resulted from adherence to these policies and practices.

(2) A recipient employing fifty or more persons and receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of \$25,000 or more shall, for at least three years following completion of the evaluation required under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, maintain on file, make available for public inspection, and provide to the Department on request:

(i) A list of the interested persons consulted,

(ii) A description of areas examined and problems identified, and

(iii) A description of modifications made and remedial steps taken.

(d) *Designation of responsible employee.* A recipient employing fifty or more persons and receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of \$25,000 or more shall designate at least one person to coordinate compliance with this subpart.

(e) *Adoption of grievance procedures.* A recipient employing fifty or more persons and receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of \$25,000 or more shall adopt grievance procedures that incorporate due process standards (*e.g.* adequate notice, fair hearing) and provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by this subpart. Such procedures need not be established with respect to complaints from applicants for employment. An employee may file a complaint with the Department without having first used the recipient's grievance procedures.

(f) *Notice.* (1) A recipient employing fifty or more persons and receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of more than \$25,000 shall, on a continuing basis, notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants, employees and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipient that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in violation of section 504 and this subpart. The notification shall state, where appropriate, that the recipient does not discriminate in its programs or activities with respect to access, treatment or employment. The notification shall also include identification of the person responsible for coordinating compliance with this subpart and where to file section 504 complaints with the Department and, where applicable, with the recipient. A recipient shall make the initial notification required by this paragraph within 90 days of the effective date of this subpart. Methods of initial and continuing notification may include the posting of notices, publication in newspapers and magazines, placement of notices in recipients' publication, and